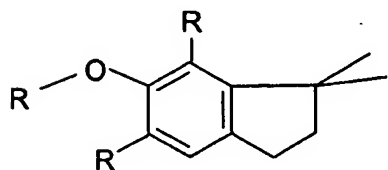
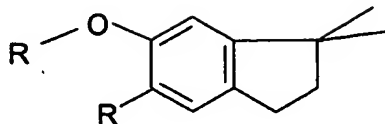
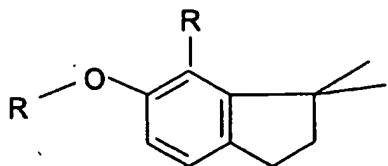


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IN THE CLAIMS:

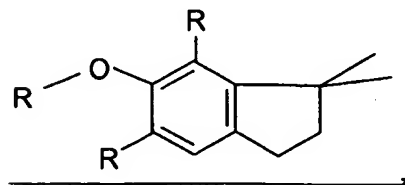
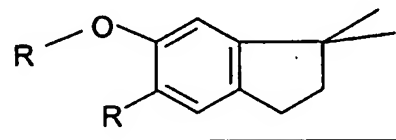
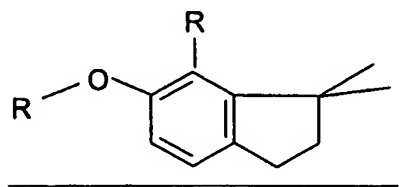
Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) Compounds of formulas

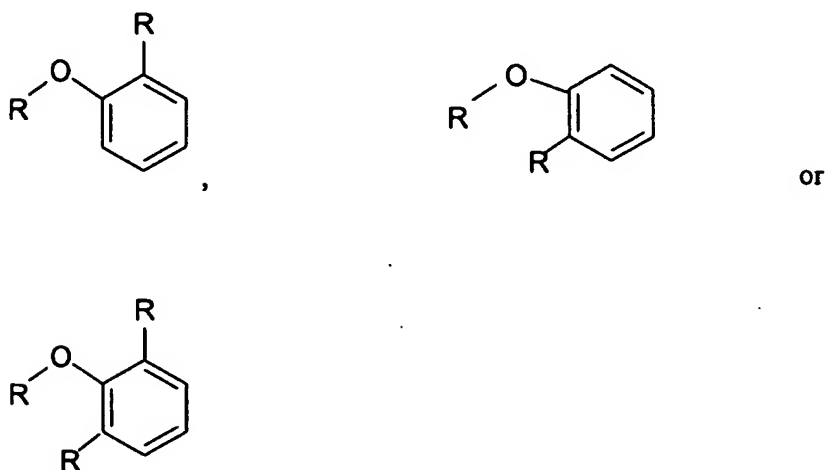


wherein R is independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl and i-pentyl.

15. (Currently amended) A [[M]] method for the preparation of compounds according to claim 15, having the formula

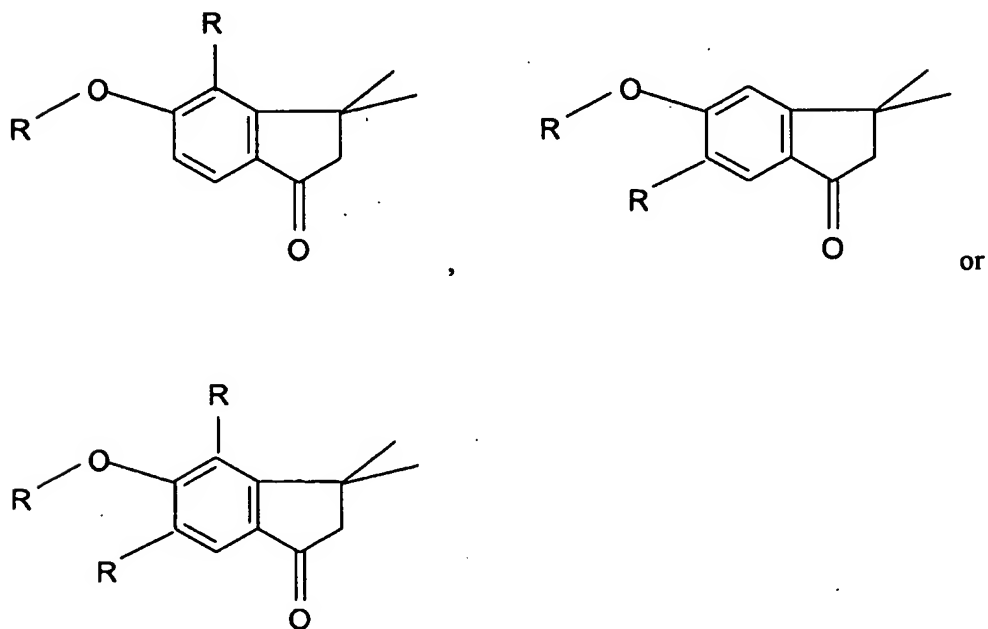


said method comprising reacting an alkoxy substituted aromatic compound with isoprene in the presence of an acid catalyst, wherein said alkoxy substituted aromatic compound has the formula:



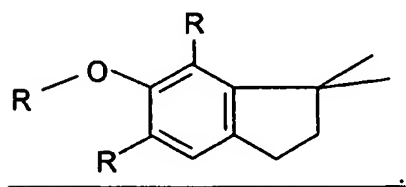
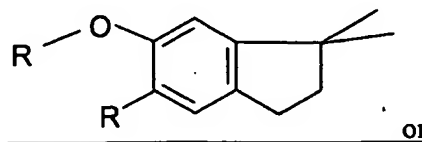
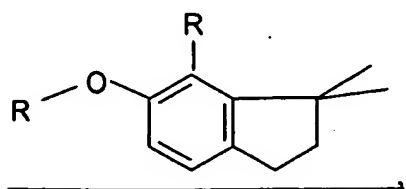
wherein R is independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl and i-pentyl.

16. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of compounds of the formulas



wherein R is independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl and i-pentyl,

said method comprising the step of oxidizing a compound of ~~claim 14~~ formulas



17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16 , wherein the oxidation is carried out using oxygen as an oxidizing agent.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the oxidation is carried out in the presence of a metal compound, where the metal is selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, cobalt, chromium, nickel and copper.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the oxidation is carried out in the presence of an N-hydroxy-imide.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the oxidation is carried out with the aid of phase transfer catalysis.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the oxidation is carried out in the presence of an N-hydroxy-imide.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the oxidation is carried out with the aid of phase transfer catalysis.

Claims 23-25 (Cancelled)